



## COSTAGUANA



Volume IX, Number 10

1 October 1984

Alleluia and amen. This is COSTAGUANA, a journal of postal Diplomacy and dioramic doodles, secreted into the mailstream by Conrad F. von Metzke, P.O. Box 27273, San Diego, CA 92128. Telephones: Home (619) 276-2937, Office (619) 487-6384. Subscriptions 20c per copy in units of ten. Game fees: Current recipients \$3, new people \$7. Game fees include a subscription to the magazine for the duration of your game (unless you drop out without notice).

THIRD GAME: At this writing we have five players for sure: Steve Cartier, John Walker, John Caruso, Jake Walters and Michael Pustilnik. We may have a sixth, Steve Arnawoodian, but I'm waiting to hear from him confirming; someone, somewhere, apparently announced that Rod Walker would be playing in this game. That is not true, and I have never said that to anyone nor even hinted at it. (Some readers will remember that Rod resigned from his position in 1983AC not too long ago, citing lack of time.) Anyway, both Steve and John Caruso were misled by this rumor and signed up under that assumption; I wrote back correcting the error, and John has replied that he'll play anyway, but Steve hasn't answered yet.

So - we have either one spot or two left.

In replying to Steve and John, I also told them that I declined to use preference lists for country assignments. I have since changed my mind, and for this game I will use them as long as all seven players submit them. I have lists from Caruso, Walters and Walker. I need lists from Cartier and Pustilnik. Steve A., if you do decide to play, I know you sent a list but I'm sorry, I can't locate it any more. Please try again.

And finally - in spite of there being just one or two slots open, I'd deeply appreciate other publishers mentioning this game. That's because I think everyone among the current readership who is interested, has already joined, and I have no other sources to tap.

SILLIES: Michael Pustilnik states that he believes *AMUOUS* should be "ambiguous." Yeah, I'd say so....and I sure got suckered on that "logical symbol" bit, didn't I?

TRIVIA QUIZ: The resounding thud of responses plopping into my mailbox indicates strongly to me that you out there aren't big on my trivia quizzes. Wrong type of questions? Sorry, that's the kind of quiz I put together; so maybe we'll try another one of these in about 1997, eh?

The winner - and only entrant - was Rod Walker. Considering that I stole several of the questions from his prior quizzes, he ought to be ineligible, but I'm not going to push the point considering the competition. Rod got seven correct, and there is a dispute on an eighth which I'll concede because I can no longer locate my source. Even discounting the ones I stole from him, not bad, sir!

For those who particularly care, here are the answers:

1. The Roman general Ezio sings his famous impassioned plea to the title character in Giuseppe Verdi's "Attila." The duet from which the line is drawn is a marvellous tour-de-force for two good baritones, and I have had a tremendous bit of fun singing Attila to the Ezio of my voice teacher, Robert Austin.

2. Andorra, a tiny country in the Pyrrenees (oops), has as joint heads of state the President of France and the Bishop of Urgel (Spain). The latter is presumably a Spanish citizen; the former is required by French law to be a citizen of France.

3. The actual title of "Schubert's Serenade" is "Ständchen." In English, that word means "Serenade."

4. Nebraska originally had the two-letter designation NB (avoiding confusion with Nevada, which for like reasons was assigned NV). However, it quickly developed that most of the mail destined for the Canadian province of New Brunswick was going to Nebraska, so in response to a request from Canada Post NB was changed to NE.

5. "Wrought" is an obsolete past tense of "to work." Another well-known usage is in the first message ever sent by telegraph, "What hath God wrought?"

6. Well, here's where Rod and I disagree. We concur that the Danes stoutly opposed Hitler's Jewish policies, and saved almost all Danish Jews from extermination (by sneaking them off to Sweden. But Rod tells me that, according to his references, most of Bulgaria's Jews were in fact gassed. My sources tell me that over 80% of Bulgarian Jews survived for reasons rather similar to those in Denmark. According to my facts, therefore, Denmark and Bulgaria are the only Nazi-occupied countries where a majority of the Jewish population survived the war. But Rod says otherwise....

7. Nepal's two national games are soccer and bagchal. I would dearly love to tell you all about bagchal, but I'll have to pass; I was hoping one of you would get it right so I could ask you. (Trivial aside: In Devangari, the official language of Nepal, soccer is called "soccer.")

8. The various dialects of German are among the most disparate of all world languages; it is literally true that people from some German-speaking areas cannot understand those from others. Liechtenstein and German Switzerland have one of the most curious dialects of all. And a pocket-watch in Liechtenstein and some areas of Switzerland is a "Klorettile," which is a Germanic contraction of the French phrase "Quelle heure est-il?" which means "What time is it?"

9. The music to our National Anthem was borrowed from what amounts to a popular drinking song, "To Anacreon in Heaven," composed as the official 'anthem' of the Anacreontic Society of America by a man whose name I've forgotten even though I've sung the thing a dozen times.

10. A lot (or loth) weighs in at around 15 grams. It is a Central European measure which gave way to metrics in the late 1800s. It was used, for instance, to weigh letters in the mail; until 1873 in Hungary, it would have cost you two krajcar per loth to mail a letter from Buda to Pest.

Well, it was a tough race, but...Rod wins! Prize herewith awarded. Rod's a bright guy and well deserves a good opinion of his own knowledge and intelligence; but even so, this must be a bit of a Pyrrhic victory. Oh well, you'll live; and of course, your Pyrrh is enclosed.

TRY AGAIN? Well, just briefly. Can anyone complete the following without looking back to past issues of COSTAGUANA? (These were given to me some years ago by Eric Just of Oklahoma.)

1. Write a proper sentence using the word "and" six times consecutively.
2. Punctuate the following so that it makes sense:

Jim though John had had had had had had had had had had had a better effect.

ANYJOURNALWHICHWAITSENTILPAGETHREETOINTRODUCEALINEARSEPARATORTRULYSUCKS

John Walker writes, "By the way, how many issues equal a volume?" Gee, I can't remember; I once wrote it down somewhere but can't remember where any more.....

Which reminds me: How many Texans does it take to change a light bulb?

OFCOURSEWECANALWAYSMAKEUPFORTHELACKOFFLINEARSEPARATORSBYINSERTINGABUNCHHERE

The limerick's furtive and mean.  
You must keep it in close quarantine,  
Else it slinks to the slums  
Where it quickly becomes  
Disorderly, drunk and obscene.

"I don't give a hoot," said a particle,  
"One whit for the definite article."  
"If 'Cogito sum',  
"Pronounces my doom,  
"Then to hell with all systems Descartesical."

A sexy young lady named Alice  
Tried a dynamite stick for a phallus.  
They found her vagina  
In South Carolina,  
And part of her anus in Dallas.

A scion of Boston society  
Was pinched, and for mere inebriety.  
"I shall lie in the gutter,"  
Said he, "and not utter  
"One word in defense of sobriety."

Five lines to a limerick's the rule;  
More or less, and the author's a fool.  
But this time I've but four;  
I can think of no more!

LEAKYFAUCETSPHEELINGPAINTCOCKROACHESANTSSTICKINGDOORSSTAINEDCARPETSDEADGRASS

As long as we're being silly, here is a little ditty I once wrote and sang for my voice instructor. Just possibly, one or two of you will appreciate it; it goes to the tune of "Se vuol ballare" from The Marriage of Figaro:

They're rationing water, and I am complying,  
Even though all the sweet William is dying.  
Next all the boxwood and oak trees will go,  
But that's no problem, my crabgrass will grow, yes,  
Crabgrass will grow, yes,  
Crabgrass will grow.

(It is tough to sing when one's accompanist is busy rolling on the floor.....)

BEDCBADCBAGG#ABCAF#GGF#GABGDBBABCDBGECAF#ADGF#GABGF#ADGF#GABGF#ADGABCDEF#AD

I mean, I am so absolutely sure of myself that I will guarantee a prize of one hundred dollars, valid U.S. currency, no tricks, to each and every subscriber who can tell me what that last linear separator represents. (Specifically!)

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(The following is a syndicated newspaper column drawn from the Sept. 6, 1984, edition of one of the better newspapers in this part of the world, the Los Angeles Times.)

#### REAGANISM AND THE POLITICS OF PIETY

President Reagan's politics of piety offers the opposition a triple shot. It can be attacked, first, as a cloud over cultural diversity; next as a barrier to dealing with Moscow; and finally as a piece of hypocrisy designed to mask policies that exalt greed. But the Democrats experience great difficulty in making these points. For the fact is that the country has caught a dose of Reaganism that only time can cure.

The recent linkage of religion and politics was initiated by Jimmy Carter in 1976. Reagan one-upped him in the 1980 campaign when he described himself as a "creationist" with a literal belief in the Bible. He went a little further in seeking tax-exempt status for Bob Jones University despite its openly racist policies. He went further again when, as one of the reasons for his decision to seek reelection, he advanced "the need to bring God back into the schools."

Still, there was nothing particularly new in the comment, made in Dallas during the Republican convention last month, that "religion and politics are necessarily related." Neither is there anything mysterious about the right arguments to make against that approach.

The Founding Fathers were powerfully influenced by the rationalism of the 18th Century. They wrote the separation of church and state into the

Constitution. Immigrant masses, by their overwhelming contribution to this country, then legitimized the spirit of cultural diversity.

But even as Walter F. Mondale and Geraldine A. Ferraro make that case, the issue turns hollow. The President may prate of his religious feeling, but even he does not take the claims very seriously. If remarks in Dallas draw a strong reaction, he cools it in Salt Lake City. No real threat to civil liberties of cultural diversity exists in this country. A mild reaction against liberal excesses of the past is under way, but few Americans can get excited on that score.

A more plausible danger arises in foreign policy. The Reagan Administration has fostered such elaborate suspicions in its own mind and in Moscow that Big Two dialogue has been virtually ended, and the absence of good communication makes every conflict more dangerous.

The bond between Reagan's religiosity and the new Cold War is direct and tight. For to the fundamentalists, Russia is not a rival with whom it makes sense to seek accomodation. On the contrary, religious zealots in this country see in Russia the shrine of atheism - the enemy incarnate. It was logical, not far-out, for the President to stigmatize the Soviet Union as "the evil empire" in a speech to a religious group. Insofar as he continues to play to the fundamentalists, it will be impossible to reach accomodation with Moscow.

But such complicated reasoning is not the stuff of presidential politics. A candidate who knocked getting cozy with Jerry Falwell because it compromised relations with Konstantin Chernenko would come off as hard on religion and soft on communism, especially since the Soviets now show so little interest in reaching any accord with this country.

Finally, there is the element of hypocrisy. Ronald Reagan does not score high when it comes to making manifest the spirit of holiness. He and his family are not regular churchgoers. He was divorced, and he seems not terribly interested in his children. Nobody has been staggered by the generosity of his bequests to charity.

On the contrary, selfishness is the Reagan hallmark, personally and politically. He lives in luxury and loves the perks. He does not work hard himself. Neither does he challenge those around him, nor ask sacrifice of the country at large. Instead, he exalts the fat cats and the soft life.

"Get rich" is the basic message of the Reagan Administration to the American people. Huge reductions in inheritance taxes, gift taxes and the maximum tax rate are a prime feature of the domestic program. So are huge debts - that put off what should be paid today until tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow. High-sounding rhetoric, the use of mercenaries and weapons programs that fatten the defense contractors stand out in the areas of national security policy. Frank Sinatra is a dear friend, and California millionaires comprise the Kitchen Cabinet.

The mixture of self-indulgence and sanctimony yields that well-known condition, hypocrisy. Its characterizations run through world literature. There is Tartuffe by Moliere; Pecksniff by Dickens; and Elmer Gantry by Sinclair Lewis. The characters recur because the condition keeps coming back.

This country is now set up for an Elmer Gantry. Millions of Americans want to get rich and be praised. In that climate, the politics of piety thrives. It can be exorcised, but not by argument and opposition. The play of events is required, and that takes time.

-- Joseph Kraft

[illegible]

GAME TWO - Fall 1901 Builds

First of all, let me note that Jim Stevens has moved:

323 N. Charles  
Rome, NY 13440  
(315) 339-3095

Next, one player suggests that if obtaining a Boardman Number for this game involves any expense or trouble, then we not bother. I agree. However, I am unaware that expense is involved, and as for trouble, it involves writing but a single letter - which I've already done. I can only presume that eventually we'll hear that we've been legitimized. If not, possibly the hobby needs to select a new Custodian of the Numbers? Then again, does it really much matter?

AUSTRIA: + a tri, a bud, a vie. Has: a's rum, ser, tri, vie, bud; f gre (6).  
ENGLAND: + f lvp. Has: a nwy; f's lvp, nth, nwg (4).  
FRANCE: + f bre, f mar. Has: a's spa, por; f's bre, mar, iri (5)  
GERMANY: + a ber, f kie. Has: a's hol, ruh, ber; f's kie, den (5).  
ITALY: +f nap. Has: a's tyo, tun; f's nap, ion (4).  
RUSSIA: Has: a's gal, stp; f bot (3).  
TURKEY: + f con, f smy. Has: a's bul, sev; f's con, smy, bla (5).

We now have three people available to stand by in this game: Lu Henry, Doug Beyerlein and Konrad Baumeister.

Spring 1902 Moves are due Monday, October 22, 1984. (Tentative moves on file for Turkey.)

WARSZAWA NEUTERS: It sure looks to us like Konrad is in the game. If he's not, then who's playing Russia?

JAMUL: Despite the occasional printing of "moves," Russia is obviously in civil disorder.

WEMBLEYJUNIORMARJORIESPROCKETGRUNGEGOBOWRENCHDOCMATTREDSIDEBOTOMBOOBERMOKI

1983AC - Fall 1905 Builds

England builds A Lon. France builds A Par. Germany removes F Hel.

Please see the other game report, above, for Jim Stevens' new address.

Spring 1906:

AUSTRIA (Robson): a sil (s) tyo-mun. a rom-tus. a rum (s) ser. a ser (s) rum. a ven-pie. a tyo-mun. a gal (s) TUR sev-ukr. f nap-tyn.  
ENGLAND (Pustilnik): a stp-lvn. a lon-den. f nth (c) lon-den. f bal (s) FRE kie-ber. f wal (h). f nth (c) lon-den. f den-hel.

FRANCE (Johnston): a pie-tyo. a bel-ruh. a hol (s) bel-ruh. a kie-ber.  
a par-bur. f wes-t n. f tyn (s) ITA tun-ion. f mid (h).  
GERMANY (Fleming): a mun (s) FRE kie-ber. a ber-pru.  
ITALY (Stevens): f tun-ion.  
RUSSIA (Cartier): a mos (s) war. a war (s) mos.  
TURKEY (Walters): a gre-bul. a bul-sev. a sev-ukr. f aeg-gre. f bla  
(c) bul-sev. f ion (s) AUS nap-tyn.

The German army Munich must retreat to (oddly enough) Kiel, or maybe Bohemia, or possibly off the board. Fall 1906 moves may be conditional on the direction of this retreat.

HAS EVERYONE MADE A NOTE OF JIM STEVENS' NEW ADDRESS?

Fall 1906 Moves are due Monday, October 22, 1984.

FRANCE TO GERMANY: You better not have burned me because you are going to die anyway.

JAMUL: He's doing an amazing job of retaining lividity....

MOSKVA: FROM: Gen. Abd al Raschul, Cmdr. 1st Army (Moscow)  
TO: Gen. Bigheinski, Cmdr. 4th Army (Warsaw)

Surprise! You thought we were on the same side, didn't you?  
Surrender or else! The Red Cross is bringing you ice for your vodka, comrade General; we are not inhuman, after all.

JAMUL: Yeah, that's about the way this game has been played.

VATICAN, SOUTH: I call upon all the God-fearing peoples of the world to come join the modern crusades, the next great Christian Jihad. Believers from all over the world are pouring into Northern Africa to join the struggle against the godless Austrians. The Austrian swine and children of swine have sacked the holy citadel in Rome, raped our devoted sisters of the faith, and sodomized our priests. They violate every commandment known to man or beast. They claim that God doesn't reside in the clouds and that He didn't create the world. They put forth a Big Bang theory. They'll hear a big bang when we get to them....

I implore you, in His name and all that is Holy, to join us, lend your support, and be redeemed forever in His Eyes. Earn yourself eternal salvation; don't burn in hell with the Austrians.

Let us pray....

.....a moment of silence, please.....

I trust you've all heard the word of our Lord. And the word is, "Kill Austrians, Kill Austrians, Kill Austrians...." Come lift your voice up and let it join in our battle cry.

HYMN #132 (to the tune of "Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina....")

Nothing could be finer than to kill an Aussie swiner  
In the mor-ning,  
Nothing could be sweeter than to find an Aus' and beat her  
In the mor-ning



A-U-S-T-R-I-A-N

CRASH

Bang

BASH

Leave me alone.

UNKNOWN SOLDIER: Where did you get this radio?

POPE?: From God.

U.S.: God, my butt! You know we don't allow them in here, especially transmitters..

POPE?: God will punish you.

U.S.: You're punishment enough. Now get back into bed.

POPE?: Please, not that thing.

U.S.: Okay, if you promise to be good and stay in bed (Tunis), we won't need these sedatives or this strait jacket. All right?

POPE?: All right, if I can sign off.

U.S.: Well, okay. But that's it.

POPE?: Signing off from God's little bit of heaven on earth, and don't forget to send in your donations to:

God

P.O. Box 1

Tunis, N. Africa

JAMUL: But my letter was returned, marked "no such person." Now what?

112211? 112211? 112211? 112211? 112211? 112211? 112211? 112211? 112211? 112211?

FINAL BLURBS:

Our second game now has a Boardman number; it arrived just as I was winding up the issue. 1984HI. So we're now official, and I'll use the number in further references to the game.

Our third game now has a sixth (or seventh) player in Doug Brown of Penngrove, California. So - if Steve Arnawoodian plays, we're full, and no advertising of the game is required. If Steve passes, we need one more. Anybody got Steve's address so I can ask him?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 104

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